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12 December 1990

27
Jan
95

0440

~~Top Secret~~

Contents



Special Analyses

Libya: Activity in Africa Intensifying

12

~~Top Secret~~

12 December 1990

~~Top Secret~~

Special Analysis

LIBYA:**Activity in Africa Intensifying**

Tripoli has quietly reinvigorated efforts to identify and guide subversive groups in Chad, Liberia, and Rwanda since last year. Idris Deby's seizure of power in Chad probably ensures that Qadhafi will continue his assertive policy for at least the next several months.

The recent appointment as Foreign Minister of Ibrahim Bishari, a black Libyan with extensive experience in African affairs, also suggests renewed interest in Africa. Bishari will be in a position to implement an aggressive policy in Africa, employing Qadhafi's customary mix of diplomacy and subversion.

Current Activities

Support for insurgents in Chad, Liberia, and Rwanda suggests Qadhafi is seeking low-cost, low-risk opportunities where clandestine support can sharpen existing ethnic and tribal tensions. Qadhafi aims to promote his unique brand of revolutionary socialism and to weaken US and French influence in the region.

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0462

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Rwanda. Libya may have provided financial and military support to ethnic Tutsi rebels who invaded Rwanda from Uganda in early October, [redacted] The rebels currently are conducting a low-intensity guerrilla campaign. [redacted]

Outlook

Qadhafi offered assistance to the insurgents in Chad, Liberia, and Rwanda only after they had begun operations, suggesting he requires a demonstration of commitment before he will provide substantial aid. He almost certainly weighs the prospects for a group's success against the risk of needlessly exposing himself to retaliation from the US and France and censure by the OAU. He also does not wish to jeopardize the political gains he believes he has achieved through relatively moderate behavior in the past two years. [redacted]

Nevertheless, the Libyan leader is unlikely to reduce his meddling in Africa soon. He almost certainly believes the opportunities for advancing his political agenda in the region through clandestine support for subversive groups outweigh the limited risks. [redacted]

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12 December 1990